

REMARKS

Claims 56-75 are now pending in this application. Claims 56-67 correspond to canceled claims 30-41, claims 68-72 correspond to canceled claims 44-48, claims 73 and 74 correspond to canceled claims 50 and 51 and claim 75 corresponds to canceled claim 53. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention which is novel and unobvious. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action of November 13, 2003, claims 30-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, it was noted that claims 30-33 used terminology that is not common in the art, in particular, "cut through request packet" and "self node device". The claims have been rewritten to eliminate any unclear terminology. Additionally, method claims 68-75 have been written to positively recite the method steps. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in all aspects in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Examination of this case on the merits is respectfully requested. Applicants representative are submitting concurrently herewith a Request for an Interview to discuss the claims and to avoid yet another rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

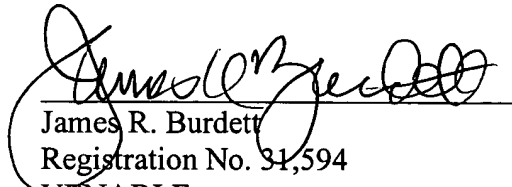
Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

3/15/04
Date


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